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REMOTE STORAGE

# CONSUMERS' LEAGUE

OF ILLINOIS

51 LA SALLE STREET

CHICAGO

“Upon the false theory that men cease to be brothers when they buy and sell, upon the theory the employer and employee are not fellow men but merely dealers in a non-human market, is built upon the false society in which we live. The remedy is the new conscience, which says simply that a man shall never be so much of a buyer or seller as to cease to be a brother, and that labor shall not be a market thing.”



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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
NOVEMBER 31, 1909



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## What is the Illinois Consumers League?

An association of persons who recognize that they have a responsibility for conditions under which the goods which they purchase are made.

What are the objects of the League?

"To protect from employment the child who is under the legal age for wage earning.

"To further the enactment and proper enforcement of laws bettering the condition of employment, and especially protecting women and children who are wage earners.

"To give moral and commercial support to merchants and manufacturers who afford humane and sanitary conditions of employment, and who refuse to profit by the sweating system and the labor of young children."

(Consumers' League of Philadelphia.)

### Officers

Mrs. Mary H. Wilmarth .....	President
Miss Edith Wyatt .....	Vice-President
Mrs. Harriet M. VanDerVaart .....	Secretary
Miss Anna Nicholes .....	Treasurer

### Directors

Miss Jane Addams	Mrs. Frank Churchill
Miss Mary Rozet Smith	Miss S. Breckenridge
Mrs. I. S. Blackwelder	Mrs. Harold McCormick
Mrs. C. C. Arnold	Mrs. Anna W. Thompson
Miss Elizabeth Head	Mrs. J. F. Porter
Mrs. Samuel Dauchy	Miss Grace Abbott
Miss Catherine Colvin	

## Secretary's Report

The protection of women and children in the industrial world through legislative action and enforcement of laws already obtained, for the past nine years has been the main interest of the Consumers' League of Illinois.

Recognizing the fact that a law is only a tool to work with, and generally not a very satisfactory tool, a great effort has been made to stand by the Child Labor Law and to bridge over some of its weak places. The League was instrumental in establishing a central office for giving working certificates to children soon after the Child Labor Law of 1903 went into effect. This central office was a provision of the original bill, but this part of the bill was weakened in the committee-room in Springfield.

To this office the children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who wish to go to work must come with their parents, bringing their school record. Here they are tested as to their ability to read and write. The parent's affidavit is taken, and the final age and school certificate given to the child. The records concerning each child are carefully filed.

These records in certain cases may prove valuable to the State Factory Inspector, and are also open for legitimate public use and inspection.

This office is still a matter of voluntary arrangement between Arch-Bishop Quigley and the Superintendent of the Public Schools and is a regular enforcement of the Child Labor Law in Chicago. Another weak place in this law is the clause that allows foreign children, or those who have not the proof of age, the law requires (birth, school or church record) to go before the County Judge, where the oath of the parent or guardian is accepted as proof, and the working certificate given. For six years the County Judge has sent the names and addresses of children who applied to him for working certificates, to the Secretary of the Consumers' League, and has accepted her recommendation for

giving or withholding the certificates. In numerous instances it has been found that school records existed which gave the child as under age. Unless it was proven that the school records were wrong, the child was returned to school and the law upheld. In other instances it only required sending to another city. Sometimes it has been necessary to send to the old country for baptismal records.

Some record is generally obtainable. During the year which ended November 30th, 1909, the names and addresses of 232 children have been sent to the Secretary for investigation. Of this number 152 were found to be entitled to certificates. Forty were refused unconditionally. Of the remaining forty, some still claimed that they could obtain proof showing them to be fourteen years of age; some gave up the idea of working, and a few could not be located.

While the League on the one hand has been working for the most perfect enforcement of the law, it has at the same time worked to ameliorate any suffering caused by that enforcement.

Where the earnings of a child are found necessary for a family's support, the League gives a scholarship; which means that the family receives each week the amount the child could earn (which is generally three dollars) on **condition** that the child presents a record of attendance at some public school for the preceding week. Requests for these scholarships come from various sources, including The League for the Protection of Immigrants, the State Factory Inspectors, the Social Settlements, etc., but are only given on the final approval of the United Charities. Two of these scholarships are being carried by the League at the present time.

### **The Ten Hour Law Limiting the Hours of Work for Women.**

During the past year much interest has centered in the ten-hour bill for working women. The Girls' Bill, as it is called, because it originated among the trade union workers, became a law on July 1, 1909.

The original bill asked for an eight hour day, but it was soon recognized that a parallel of the Oregon Law limiting the hours of work for women to ten would be more likely to withstand an attack upon its constitutionality.

The following bill was passed:—

Section 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly: That no female shall be employed in any mechanical establishment or factory, or laundry in this State, more than ten hours during any one day. The hours of work may be so arranged as to permit the employment of females at any time so that they shall not work more than ten hours during the twenty-four hours of any day.

The members of the Consumers' League contributed to the expense of securing the law and individually did good service in moulding public sentiment.

It is doubtful if the law would have been secured had it not been for the Brandeis' Brief, which was prepared by Louis D. Brandeis and Miss Josephine Goldmark, who is an officer of the National Consumers' League. This Brief was prepared to uphold the law for limiting the hours of women workers to ten, before the United States Supreme Court. Copies of this were sent to each legislator.

The attack upon the constitutionality of the law was not slow in coming. The Ritchie case is now a matter of past history. It was felt important to secure favorable public sentiment for the law and a resume of the Brandeis' Brief prepared by Miss Edith Wyatt, Vice-President of the Consumers' League, was mailed to every newspaper throughout the State of Illinois. The resume received a very gratifying response. At the hearing before the Illinois Supreme Court, Factory Inspector Davies and Attorney Wayman invited Mr. Brandeis to appear with them to uphold the constitutionality of the Ten Hour Law. The Supreme Court sustained the constitutionality of the law, in a decision handed down on April 14, 1910.

Illinois owes a great debt to the Women's Trades Union League of Chicago, the National Consumers' League, Mr. Bran-

deis and Miss Goldmark, as well as to those officially interested, without whose services limitation of hours for Illinois women workers would not have been a possibility for many years.

The National Consumers' League has conducted in New York, an inquiry concerning the standard of living of Working Women and Girls away from home. The League's inquiry has ascertained certain facts in regard to hours, over-time, illness, over-time compensation, income and its expenditure for shelter, food and clothing. This report, made by Miss Sue Ainslee, of New York, will be compiled by the Vice-President of the Illinois League, and published in a series of Articles in McClure's Magazine for the winter of 1910-11. It is sincerely hoped that a wider realization among consumers, of the public exploitations and racial worth involved in unregulated conditions in women's wage-labor, will assist in the work of obtaining further conservation of the health of women gainfully employed in this country.

### **Report of Committee on Slave Grown Cocoa.**

When the Illinois branch of the League learned that the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society of England was about to send Mr. Joseph Burt to America to tell of his investigations of the Slave Trade in Portuguese West Africa, and of the condition of labor on the cocoa plantations of San Thome and Principe, a committee consisting of Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Wilmarth and Mrs. Churchill, was appointed to write Mr. Burt to come to Chicago, and to co-operate with him as far as possible, in the effort to make his visit successful.

The committee felt that the best way to help him was to secure opportunities for him to address meetings; and during his two weeks' stay in our city he largely presented his cause, before a number of churches, women's clubs, associations of business men, settlement clubs, ministers' associations, and students in college, thus reaching a great variety of people.

Resolutions were adopted by some of the clubs declaring the intention of the members to avoid the use of cocoa grown under the conditions of slave labor described by Mr. Burt.

Below is a list of cocoa manufacturers whose output is not the product of slave labor:

Walter Baker & Company.....	Boston
Lowney & Company .....	Boston
Huylers .....	New York
Mauillard .....	New York
Powell .....	New York
Williams .....	Philadelphia
Whitman .....	Philadelphia
Croft & Allen .....	Philadelphia
Stollwercks .....	Stamford
Cadbury Brothers .....	
J. S. Fry & Sons .....	
Rowntree & Co. ....	
Runkel Bros. ....	
Bensdorp .....	
Chocolat-Menier .....	
Van Houten .....	

In concluding this report, the Board of the Consumers' League of Illinois wishes to call the attention of all the members to the status of the Chicago Milk Ordinance, now threatening in the City Council with an amendment, practically eliminating the pasteurization at present required.

We include a statement of the Health Department on this subject:

It is universally recognized that mortality among babies, and deaths from certain diseases, such as typhoid and diarrheal affections, bear a close relation to the sanitary quality of the milk supply. Any material improvement in the milk supply will, other things being equal, result in material reductions in the death rates of these diseases and age groups.

With the exception of the sanitary improvement in the milk supply due to pasteurization, all other things that may be factors in raising or lowering the death rate of babies and of diarrheal diseases and typhoid fever were practically the same in Chicago



during 1909 as in other recent years, and, therefore, any material reductions in the mortality in the mentioned groups must be attributed chiefly to the improvement of the milk supply obtained through pasteurization.

Let us see what the reductions in 1909 amount to: The baby death rate of 1909 was 287 per 100,000 of the total population, the second lowest ever recorded in Chicago; 10 per cent lower than the preceding years, 1906, 1907 and 1908, and 9 per cent lower than the average of the ten years, 1899-1908. If the death-rate of 1906, 1907 or 1908 had prevailed during the year 1909, there would have been 7,096 deaths among babies instead of the 6,387 that actually occurred. The saving of baby lives in 1909, therefore, amounts to 709. Following are the figures in detail:

#### Child Mortality Under One Year of Age.

Years.	Deaths.	Rates per 100,000.
1899 .....	5,917	363
1900 .....	5,726	337
1901 .....	5,407	308
1902 .....	5,514	303
1903 .....	5,699	304
1904 .....	5,387	279
1905 .....	6,251	314
1906 .....	6,554	319
1907 .....	6,720	319
1908 .....	6,908	319
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Average of 10 years .....	6,008	316
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1909 .....	6,389	287

**Note.**—Prior to 1907 all deaths of children who lived less than one day were excluded from the mortality count. Since 1907 such deaths have been included and they constitute 7.2 per cent of the

total mortality under one year of age. Therefore, to make this statement comparable, 7.2 per cent has been added to the tabulations of the years 1899 to 1906, inclusive.

Is it not significant that the only marked reduction in deaths during the year 1909, as compared with the preceding year, was among the babies, the milk feeders?

We also include a quotation giving the reason why our Health Department believes amending the Ordinance would lessen the efficiency of the milk test. The summary was made by Dr. Evans for the Chicago Tribune, whose courtesy we acknowledge:

"1. The people would be protected against no milk borne disease, excepting tuberculosis; there would be the same milk caused baby death rate, milk borne scarlet fever, diphtheria, and typhoid.

"2. The price of milk would increase greatly.

"3. The ordinance does not give perfect milk, but it gives the best milk which can be had at a price a poor man can pay.

"4. It has saved 700 babies in one year.

"5. It has saved seventy deaths from typhoid fever in one year.

"6. It has reduced the average bacterial count of milk from 5,547,502 to 944,465.

"7. It has prevented any milk epidemics of typhoid, scarlet fever, or diphtheria.

"8. The milk supply would not meet the demand.

"9. The ordinance is indorsed by the United States Government authorities and 90 per cent of the physicians.

"10. The best experts are of the opinion that the amendment is not necessary."

These facts speak for themselves. The Board requests all members of the Illinois League to ask their Representatives and Aldermen in the City Council to protect the public health by opposing the proposed amendment and upholding pasteurization, and the Chicago Milk Ordinance, as it now stands.





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